

**RAVENNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2017**

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The Ravenna Township Board of Trustees met in a Public Hearing at the Jenkins Meeting Room in the Reed Memorial Library, Ravenna, Ohio, on February 7, 2017. Trustee Hank Gibson called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. Roll call showed the following present: Trustees Vince Coia, Pat Artz, and Hank Gibson; Fiscal Officer Gail Pittman. In attendance were the Director of the Portage County District Recycling Center, Bill Steiner, and 16 audience members.

*The purpose of the public hearing is to discuss mandatory curbside recycling in Ravenna Township.*

Mr. Steiner introduced the recycling program. Driving the program were issues with illegal dumping, problems at the drop off centers, residents asking for curbside recycling. Suffield has just started their recycling program last week. The program has been well received throughout the county and has generated much interest from township residents wanting to join. Residents can go to [www.portagerecycles.com](http://www.portagerecycles.com) for information on recycling and to find the schedules of pickups.

The audience asked why curbside recycling would be better than the drop off centers and when would it begin? Bill said curbside recycling increases community participation. The District mailed out 4,200 surveys, on behalf of the Ravenna Township Trustees, asking the township residents if they wanted curbside recycling or not. Total respondents were 964, a 23% response rate which is high. Of those, 670 (69.5%) respondents said yes they would like curbside recycling and 294 (30.5%) did not want curbside recycling. Many of those responding no on curbside were already recycling and using the drop off location. They just didn't want to pay for curbside. He said the program would begin in May or June; they had to get the contract finalized with the township and order and distribute the blue containers.

The audience asked about the cost of the service. Bill said it would be \$2.25/month (\$27 annually) for bi-weekly pickup and would be placed on the property tax bill. Property owners wouldn't be seeing the cost until next year because property taxes are billed one year later. Other counties costs are higher, running between \$3 - \$4/month.

The audience asked about the elderly, limited income property owners. They would have less recycling volume than a six person household. Bill said it would still be the same price. The people could ask for a smaller container.

Pat Artz said she's been using the curbside service for months already and likes it. Her trash volume is down considerably since a lot of it is getting recycled. It's easy since all the recycled material is put into one container and there is no need to separate it. Bill suggested that once the program is going, the homeowners should call their trash companies to get a reduction of prices since the volume will decrease and the reduction in their trash hauling cost should help to offset the recycling cost..

Bill was asked about the containers, what happens if they break? Bill said they can have it replaced. The bins are provided to the residents at no charge.

The audience asked about having more recycling than what the container will hold? Bill said if they have extra once in a while, they could put it in a clear plastic bag and put it beside the container and it will be picked up.

There was discussion about a person in a white van dumping illegally. Bill said if they witness this and can get a picture of the license plate, there is an environmental officer that will handle it.

The audience asked if they can opt out of the program and would the central drop off containers still be there? Bill said no, if the majority of the people want the program, then everyone

is in the program, there is no opt-out option. The central collection drop off containers would then be removed from Ravenna Township.

What about the mobile home parks, how would that be handled? Bill said they will need to work out details with the park owner. The people in the parks would need to haul their recycles to a central location.

Hank Gibson asked about the rate being locked in? Bill said yes the rate would be locked in. Someone asked if the revenue from sales of the material covered the cost of the service. He said the revenue is fluctuating at about \$6/ton (years ago it would bring in \$100/ton), they are just covering costs from the fees charged and sales of materials – there is no profit.

Pat Artz complimented Bill about the waste management in Portage County; it has the best rating in Ohio. Many others use the county’s business plan because it is the best and cheapest. We are recognized in the State for doing a good job.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by Hank Gibson, seconded by Vince Coia to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm.  
R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Artz, yes; and Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

ATTEST:

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CHAIRMAN

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TRUSTEE

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FISCAL OFFICER

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TRUSTEE